

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 94

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY THE ISSUE
OF DRIVING A MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE DROWSY.

WHEREAS, drowsy drivers are as dangerous as drivers who
are impaired by alcohol or drugs, annually accounting for at
least one hundred thousand automobile crashes, forty thousand
injuries and one thousand fifty fatalities, according to the
national highway traffic safety administration; and

WHEREAS, the crash, injury and fatality statistics
underestimate the true level of harm caused by drowsy drivers
because daytime crashes, multiple-vehicle crashes, alcohol-
related crashes and other categories of crashes are not
included; and

WHEREAS, thirty-seven percent of drivers have nodded off
for at least a moment or fallen asleep while driving at least

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1 once and eight percent had done so in the last six months,
2 according to a survey sponsored by the national highway traffic
3 safety administration; and

4 WHEREAS, unlike measuring a driver's blood-alcohol
5 content, it is difficult to measure a driver's level of
6 drowsiness, which has the potential to make enforcement of laws
7 against driving while drowsy difficult; and

8 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that New Mexico's
9 laws, court decisions and public education efforts regarding
10 drowsy driving be examined in an effort to determine the best
11 manner in which to prevent drowsy driving;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of transportation be
14 requested to study the issue of drowsy driving and to make a
15 report of its recommendations, if any, to the appropriate
16 legislative interim committee prior to October 31, 2005; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the secretary of transportation.